Options for SLC at CERN

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WLCG MB, 5th February 2008

- Progressively deliver SLC5 services (test clusters, build services, …) leading to introduction of batch and interactive services in ~September and phase out of SLC4 in Q1 09.

- Skip RHES5 based platform, introduce SLC6 services from delivery of RHES6 (expected Q4 08 – Q1 09); phase out SLC4 in Q4 09.

- **NOT an option:**
  – Develop SLC5 service support infrastructure without deployment of batch & interactive services.

Requests for SLC5

- ## Install service
  - ATLAS (hardware compatibility tests)

- ## Test environment
  - ALICE/ATLAS/CMS
    - Do SLC4 binaries run on SLC5?
    - Does code compile with gcc4?

- ## Build services
  - ATLAS
    - Full SLC5 s/w release planned for early 08 (status unclear)

- Risks
  - Stability only just achieved on SLC4; can we move rapidly to SLC5?
    - Many fewer changes to Grid middleware; GD opinion is that migration is possible.
  - Short timeframe to deliver services (and experiment software); effort in 2008 in parallel with CCRC & LHC startup
- Advantages
  - Avoid SLC4->SLC6 risks…

- ## Risks

  - ### RHES4 support for new hardware ends in April 08

    - Higher price/performance for 2009 hardware?

  - ### Release timescale for RHES6 uncertain

    - "Autumn 08", but RHES5 slipped 6 months; if RHES6 arrives in "Spring 09", deployment of SLC6 services and software testing before end-09 would be very tight.

  - ### Relax of focus on middleware (and software) portability.

    - May further complicate migration to SLC6

- ## Advantages

  - ### Avoid SLC4->SLC5 risks…

Recommendation

- ## IT/FIO & IT/GD recommend

  - development of SLC5 services at CERN during 2008,

  - introduction of production batch and interactive services in September, and

  - phasing out SLC4 batch and interactive services during Q1 2009.
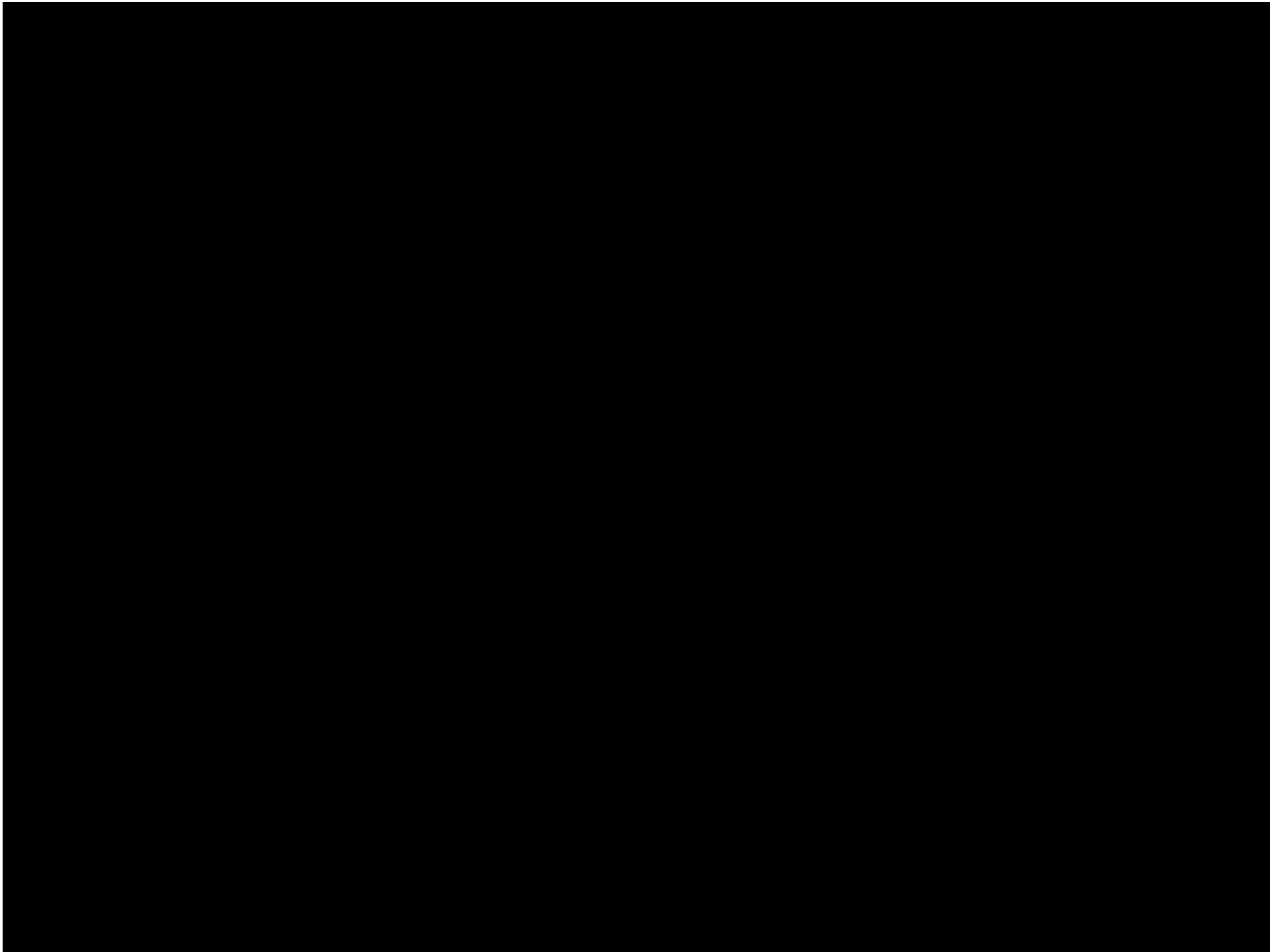
Backup Slide

- RHES, SL and SLC are (should be) identical as far as an end-user binary is concerned.
  - Same applies to SLF.
  - Any violation of this principle is a bug and will be fixed.

- CERN customisation needed to
  - ease installation of standard options at CERN (AFS, …)
  - add support for, e.g., XFS

- Requirements are continually reviewed.
  - If/when possible, SL"C" will become simple set of add-on packages, not a distinct distribution.